Implementation of water management schemes

†298. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two-third of land in the country is dependent upon rain for irrigation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to involvement of various Ministries in implementation of the ongoing water management development schemes of Government their implementation has not been satisfactory, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether a proposal for setting up a national level authority for land cultivation dependent upon rains, is under consideration of Government, if so, the outlines of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) As per the latest assessment, the net sown area in the country is 132.8 million hectare and the net irrigated area is 53.07 million hectare. Thus, about 60% of the net sown area is unirrigated.

(b) In the Report of the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth-Five Year Plan, it has been stated that there are too many agencies of the Central and State Governments implementing watershed schemes and this makes a coordinated approach towards prioritised planning and implementation rather difficult. The Tenth Plan document of Planning Commission has also brought out the fact of multiplicities of Ministries/Departments dealing with various aspects of water.

(c) Establishment of a national level Authority for Rainfed Areas was announced by the Prime Minister of India in his address to the Nation on 15th August, 2005. In this connection, the Planning Commission has conducted a brain storming session under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, National Commission on Farmers on 15.2.2006.

Baglihar Hydroelectric Project

299. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.